

Warwickshire



Notes from meeting on Tuesday 6th June, 6.30pm, Shirehall, Warwick

Present:

- Heather C
- Katherine W
- Alicia S
- Jack O
- George W
- Mia W
- Jodie Cameron

Supporting Staff:

Shin Bhangal (Practice Leader Participation)
Emily Inns (Apprentice Participation)
Andy Mclean (Part Time Youth Worker)

Visitors

Jenny Bevan (Voice of the child research Manager)
Steve Pendleton (Head of the Virtual School)

Apologies

Nagina A, Gebrella T, Tehetena T, Keely Gardner

1. Introductions

Shin played a 'true' or 'false' game with everyone at the meeting. All members and workers enjoyed this activity.

2. Jenny- Survey

Jenny explained to the group that she had been carrying out research to try to identify ***what young people think may have helped to keep them from coming into care.*** A draft report was given to the group to look at and Jenny questioned if the topics she had listed from her research seemed to be right. Jenny went through the different topics and explained to the group that the report is going to a variety of different "Boards" for further discussion and recommendations.

One example of a topic is, "How will we know what has changed/how the change will can be measured?"

One CiCC member suggested, that people should be trained more to notice mental health earlier on rather than later.

Jenny asked the group if parts of the pledge should be written within her report and everyone agreed that this was a good idea. Jenny informed the group that the report will be complete by the end of June. Jenny said she would return to the CiCC meeting in September.

3. Virtual School- Steve Pendleton

Steve was returning for an update since his last visit to the CiCC meeting in November 2016. Last time Steve attended there was a view that CiCC members could and would like to help train designated teachers to try to make a bigger impact on teaching staff through giving them first-hand experience of what it is like for a young person in care in the school environment.

One member asked, "Why do we need a designated teacher?" Steve replied explaining that children looked after do worse academically than non-looked after children. Whilst children looked after learn as well as other young people, they are often distracted from their learning by having to deal with family issues etc.... this stops and starts their learning and so extra support is provided if they need it.

Although Steve invited CiCC members to train Designated Teachers he wanted to know what one message the CiCC group would give to the teachers. Steve raised the possibility of 4 choices based on previous discussions with the CiCC members:

- Don't patronise us, treat us the same
- Stick by us because when the going gets tough and not to kick us out
- Help us do things that are fun
- Or something else.

One member said that, "Whether I'm in care or not I'm still a human I need more belief in me"

Another said, "Treat me the same, I am still a student if I need help, help me"

One felt that teachers should not, "automatically assume we can't achieve because we are in care"

One member said that whilst the support is there, "Don't overdo it"

Another said that "We need more hidden support. Invisible but the support needs to be there"

The training will be over September/ October time and the CiCC are invited to go along to help. It was suggested that they take it in turns to speak. Heather, Jodie and Alicia were up for taking part.

Any Other Business

None